

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge for separation of a supplied material in a light phase and a heavy phase~~-(13)-~~, comprising an elongate bowl ~~(2)~~ arranged for rotation about its longitudinal axis, said bowl having a separation chamber, a screw conveyor ~~(3)~~ being provided in the separation chamber and being coaxial with the bowl, said screw conveyor comprising a body~~-(4)-~~, which carries a screw comprising one or more flights ~~(7, 7')~~ and having a nominal transport speed varying along the longitudinal axis~~-(20)-~~, an inlet with at least one inlet opening ~~(6)~~ in the screw conveyor for supply of the material to the separated, and at least one discharge opening ~~(14)~~ for the heavy phase in the bowl at one end of the screw conveyor, in which the screw conveyor is made to rotate relative to the bowl ~~(2)~~ in view of conveying the heavy phase towards the discharge openings ~~(14)~~ for the heavy phase, and in which the screw conveyor is provided with a baffle positioned between the inlet openings ~~(6)~~ and the discharge openings~~-(14)-~~, said baffle dividing the separation chamber in a substantially cylindrical separation part ~~(17)~~ and an at least partially conical discharge part

~~(18)~~, the discharge openings ~~(14)~~ for the heavy phase being positioned in the discharge part~~(18)~~, the inlet openings ~~(6)~~ being positioned at the opposite side of the baffle ~~(8)~~ relative to said discharge openings, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein immediately upstream of the baffle~~(8, 8')~~, seen in relation to the transport direction, a transition part ~~(19)~~ is provided between the separation part ~~(17)~~ and the discharge part~~(18)~~, and ~~that~~ the screw conveyor ~~(3)~~ has a bigger nominal transport speed in the transition part ~~(19)~~ than in the separation part ~~(17)~~ immediately before the transition part~~(19)~~, the change of the nominal transport speed of the screw from the nominal transport speed in the separation part immediately before the transition part to the higher nominal transport speed in the transition part being established by a change ~~(21)~~ of the screw pitch.

2. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the change ~~(21)~~ of the screw pitch is abrupt.

3. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the change of the screw pitch is gradual.

4. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pitch

angle of the screw in the separation part ~~(17)~~ is considerably smaller than 45° relative to the tangential direction and ~~that~~ the change ~~(21)~~ of the screw pitch is an increase.

5. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said increase is 40-80%.

6. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pitch angle of the screw in the separation part ~~(17)~~ is considerably bigger than 45° relative to the tangential direction and ~~that~~ the change ~~(21)~~ of the screw pitch is a decrease.

7. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the screw has the bigger nominal transport speed over at least $1/3 \times 1/n$ of a turn before the baffle ~~(8)~~, n being the number of flights ~~(7, 7')~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inlet ~~(6)~~ is placed upstream of the transition part ~~(19)~~ in the separation part ~~(17)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the

baffle ~~(8)~~ has an axial extension, the border between the discharge part and the transition part being positioned at the centre point ~~(23)~~ of the axial extension of the baffle.

10. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the screw pitch is increasing in the separation part ~~(17)~~ in a direction away from the transition part ~~(19)~~.

11. (Previously Presented) The decanter centrifuge of claim 7, wherein said bigger nominal transport speed is more than about $2/3 \times 1/n$ of a turn.

12. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pitch angle of the screw in the separation part ~~(17)~~ is considerably smaller than 45° relative to the tangential direction and ~~that~~ the change ~~(21)~~ of the screw pitch is an increase.

13. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pitch angle of the screw in the separation part ~~(17)~~ is considerably smaller than 45° relative to the tangential direction and ~~that~~ the change ~~(21)~~ of the screw pitch is an increase.

14. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pitch

angle of the screw in the separation part ~~(17)~~ is considerably bigger than 45° relative to the tangential direction and ~~that~~ the change ~~(21)~~ of the screw pitch is a decrease.

15. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pitch angle of the screw in the separation part ~~(17)~~ is considerably bigger than 45° relative to the tangential direction and ~~that~~ the change ~~(21)~~ of the screw pitch is a decrease.

16. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inlet ~~(6)~~ is placed upstream of the transition part ~~(19)~~ in the separation part ~~(17)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the baffle ~~(8)~~ has an axial extension, the border between the discharge part and the transition part being positioned at the centre point ~~(23)~~ of the axial extension of the baffle.

18. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the screw pitch is increasing in the separation part ~~(17)~~ in a direction away from the transition part ~~(19)~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge

according claim 4, ~~characterized in~~ wherein the screw has the bigger nominal transport speed over at least $1/3 \times 1/n$ of a turn before the baffle~~(8)~~, n being the number of flights ~~(7,7')~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A decanter centrifuge according claim 6, ~~characterized in~~ wherein the screw has the bigger nominal transport speed over at least $1/3 \times 1/n$ of a turn before the baffle~~(8)~~, n being the number of flights ~~(7,7')~~.